

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BERLIN 00259 081739Z

64

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAM-01 IO-14 NIC-01 SAJ-01 ACDA-19 DRC-01

/137 W

----- 105250

R 081710Z FEB 74

FM USMISSION BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2959

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

USCINCEUR FOR POLAD AND OPS

USAREUR FOR POLAD, OPS AND AEAGG-OCO

CINCUSAFE FOR POLAD AND OPS

USELMLO

S E C R E T BERLIN 259

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, WB, UR

SUBJECT: SOVIET DEFECTOR

REF: A. BERLIN 213

B. BERLIN 228

1. SUMMARY: BRITISH MISSION HAS INFORMED US THAT SOVIETS HAVE KEPT UP PRESSURE FOR RETURN OF SOVIET KGB CAPTAIN MYAGKOV, WHO DEFECTED IN WEST BERLIN FEBRUARY 2 (REFTELS). SOVIETS HAVE BEEN TOLD, IN RESPONSE TO VARIOUS INQUIRIES, THAT MYAGKOV HAS INDICATED HE DOES NOT WISH TO RETURN TO SOVIET CUSTODY OR TO MEET WITH SOVIET REPRESENTATIVES
END SUMMARY.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 BERLIN 00259 081739Z

2. FOLLOWING TWO EARLIER APPROACHES, SOVIET CONSUL GENERAL SHARKOV CALLED ON BRITISH POLAD AND PROTOCOL OFFICER MORNING FEBRUARY 4 AND STRESSED URGENT NEED FOR DECISION ON SOVIET REQUEST FOR ACCESS TO DEFECTOR. MOSCOW, HE SAID, HELD THAT SOVIET AUTHORITIES HAD RIGHTS OF ACCESS TO SOVIET CITIZEN EVEN IF LATTER DID NOT WISH MEETING. BRITISH REPRESENTATIVES DEMURRED, POINTING OUT THAT MYAGKOV WAS NOT UNDER ARREST AND THAT VIENNA CONVENTION--WHICH SOVIETS ALLEGED WOULD BE BREACHED SHOULD NO MEETING TAKE PLACE--WAS NOT RELEVANT IN PRESENT CASE. (COMMENT: IN CONNECTION WITH INTERVENTIONS BY SHARKOV, BRITISH RECOGNIZE THAT DEFECTION OF MEMBERS OF SOVIET FORCES IS QUADRIPARTITE MATTER WHICH SHOULD NOT PROPERLY BE DISCUSSED WITH CONGEN, BUT THEY FEAR REPRISALS AS RESULT OF DEFECTION AND THEREFORE DO NOT WISH TO CAUSE ANY MORE DIFFICULTY BY RAISING ISSUE WITH SOVIETS NOW. INSTEAD THEY PROPOSE TO REMIND SOVIETS WHEN DUST IS SETTLED OF AGREEMENT REACHED DURING POLADS' DISCUSSIONS WITH KHOTULEV/BELETSKIY RE ESTABLISHMENT OF CONSULATE GENERAL THAT MATTERS AFFECTING MEMBERS OF FORCES WERE TO BE OUT-OF-BOUNDS TO CONGEN.) AFTERNOON FEBRUARY 4 HEAD OF BRIXMIS WAS ASKED BY SERB OFFICER FOR WRITTEN STATEMENTS AS TO WHETHER YAGKOV HAD BEEN GRANTED POLITICAL ASYLUM, WHETHER HE HAD REQUESTED ASYLUM, AND WHETHER HE HAD REFUSED TO SEE SOVIET OFFICIAL.

3. MORNING FEBRUARY 5 BRITISH MISSION INFORMED SOVIET EMBASSY COUNSELOR BELETSKIY, ON INSTRUCTIONS, THAT MYAGKOV HAD SAID HE LEFT UNIT VOLUNTARILY, DID NOT WISH TO RETURN, AND HAD NO DESIRE FOR MEETING WITH SOVIET REPRESENTATIVES; HEAD OF BRIXMIS MADE SIMILAR DEMARCHE TO SERB OFFICER. BELETSKIY SAID THAT THIS WAS "NO REPLY," AND ASKED HOW, SHORT OF A MEETING, BRITISH STATEMENT THAT MYAGKOV WAS NOT BEING HELD AGAINST HIS WILL COULD BE CHECKED. HE STATED THAT SOVIETS WOULD CONSIDER VIENNA CONVENTION TO HAVE BEEN BREACHED IF NO MEETING TOOK PLACE, AND THAT BRITISH WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR "CONSEQUENCES." SERG OFFICER, WHO ALSO TERMED BRITISH STATEMENT "NO REPLY," ADDED THAT MYAGKOV WAS WANTED

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 BERLIN 00259 081739Z

TO ANSWER CHARGES ABOUT CRIME COMMITTED IN DECEMBER.

4. AFTERNOON FEBRUARY 5 BRITISH AMBASSADOR IN MOSCOW RECEIVED ORAL COMMUNICATION FROM POLITBURO MEMBER SUSLOV IN WHICH HE ACCUSED BRITISH OF CONTRAVENTING GENERALLY-ACCEPTED NORMS AND RULES BY REFUSING TO ALLOW ACCESS TO MYAGKOV, AND DEMANDED THAT LATTER BE RETURNED TO HIS PLACE OF DUTY. SIMILAR DEMARCHE WAS

MADE BY SOVIET AMBASSADOR IN LONDON TO PERMANENT UNDER SECRETARY OF FCO MORNING FEBRUARY 6. IN MEANTIME, EVENING FEBRUARY 5, HEAD OF BRIXMIS RECEIVED MESSAGE ADDRESSED FROM CINC GSFG TO CINC BAOR, WHICH PEREMPTORILY DEMANDED RETURN OF MYAGKOV OR AT LEAST MEETING WITH HIM AND SET NOON FEBRUARY 6 AS DEADLINE FOR RESPONSE. (THIS WAS NOT MET.)

5. EVENING FEBRUARY 6 BRITISH AMBASSADOR HENDERSON REPLIED TO YEFREMOV'S LETTER OF FEBRUARY 3 (REF B) WITH STANDARD STATEMENT THAT MYAGKOV WAS NOT UNDER DETENTION AND DID NOT WISH TO RETURN TO SOVIET CUSTODY OR MEET WITH SOVIET REPRESENTATIVE. YEFREMOV THANKED HENDERSON FOR REPLY BUT MADE IT CLEAR THAT SOVIETS WANTED MEETING TO CHECK THAT MYAGKOV WAS NOT BEING DETAINED AGAINST HIS WILL.

6. USCOB CONCURS.KLEIN

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DETENTION, DEFECTORS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 FEB 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BERLIN00259
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: BERLIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740247/aaaabrsx.tel
Line Count: 133
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A. BERLIN 213
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 MAR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 MAR 2002 by garlanwa>; APPROVED <01 MAY 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOVIET DEFECTOR
TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, WB, UR, (MYAGKOV, ALEXEI)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005